

## Claims

- [c1] A method of prioritizing a received information message, a source of delivery of the received information message being indicated by a unique identifier accompanying the received information message, comprising:  
receiving the received information message;  
assigning a code for the received information message based on the unique identifier accompanying the received information message; and  
prioritizing the received information message according to the code.
- [c2] The method of claim 1, further comprising depositing the received information message into at least one of a plurality of virtual mailboxes wherein the received information message is further processed based on the code.
- [c3] The method of claim 1, further comprising looking-up the unique identifier in a database in order to determine if a unique identifier corresponds to a specific code in the database that is to be assigned to the received information message.
- [c4] The method of claim 1, wherein the received information message is an e-mail message.
- [c5] The method of claim 1, wherein the received information message is a fax message.
- [c6] The method of claim 1, wherein the received information message is a voicemail message.
- [c7] The method of claim 6, wherein the unique identifier is a telephone number corresponding to the voicemail message.
- [c8] The method of claim 6, wherein the unique identifier is a priority alphanumeric code corresponding to the voicemail message.
- [c9] The method of claim 6, wherein the unique identifier is based at least in part on a PAC.
- [c10] The method of claim 1, wherein at least one step of the method is performed by

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a recipient's client system selected from a group comprising at least one of the following: a computer, a message storage device, or a combination of a computer and a message storage device.

[c11] The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
referencing the unique identifier against a database to determine whether the unique identifier corresponds to a known identifier in said database;  
assigning a data code to the received information message, the data code comprising at least one of the following: a desired code or a designated code.

[c12] A system for sorting a received information message, a source of delivery of the message being indicated by a unique identifier accompanying the received information message, the system comprising:  
means for receiving the received information message;  
means for assigning a data code corresponding to the unique identifier, said assignment based at least in part on whether the unique identifier corresponds to a known identifier; and  
means for prioritizing the received information message according to the data code into at least one of a plurality of virtual mailboxes wherein the received information message is sorted within such virtual mailbox(es) based on the data code.

[c13] The system of claim 12, wherein the received information message is an e-mail message.

[c14] The system of claim 12, wherein the received information message is a fax message.

[c15] The system of claim 12, wherein the received information message is a voicemail message.

[c16] The method of claim 15, wherein the unique identifier is a telephone number corresponding to the voicemail message.

[c17] The method of claim 15, wherein the unique identifier is a priority alphanumeric code corresponding to the voicemail message.

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- [c18] The method of claim 15, wherein the unique identifier is based at least in part on a PAC.
- [c19] The system of claim 12, wherein the system is a recipient's client system selected from a group comprising at least one of the following: a computer, a message storage device, and a combination of a computer or a message storage device.
- [c20] A computer-readable medium of instructions and data comprising:  
means for receiving a received information message and a unique identifier;  
means for referencing the unique identifier against a database in order to determine whether the unique identifier corresponds to a known identifier in the database;  
means for assigning a data code to the received information message based at least in part on the unique identifier; and  
means for depositing the received information message into at least one of a plurality of virtual mailboxes wherein the received information message is sorted within such virtual mailbox(es) based on the data code.

# SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PRIORITIZING COMMUNICATIONS MESSAGES

## Abstract of Disclosure

A method of sorting a received information message in which a source of delivery of the message is indicated by a unique identifier accompanying the message, for example, in an e-mail or voice message system. The method includes steps of receiving the message, looking-up the identifier in a database, assigning a code for the message per the result of the step of looking-up, and prioritizing or forwarding the message according to the code.

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